[illegible] ..stes, Tolteq, Zapotec and other ancients. [illegible] Days

Case
No. 22

200

[illegible] Bird. The feathers, particularly the long brilliant green tail feathers were the highest valued [illegible] of the Aztec and Maya. In the days of Montezuma only those of noble birth were permitted to own or wear these feathers and there was a death penalty for any commoner who killed one of the birds. The story of the obtaining of this rare and valuable specimen is of sufficient interest to repeat.

[illegible] Part of the Story

Back in the year 1932 the writer was gathering information regarding the money and media of the Indians of Mexico and Central America. Correspondence was being carried on between Dr. Franz Blom of the University of Tulane, himself and Dr. Case of the Chicago National Museum. It developed that Dr. Case, the archaeologist fortunate enough to find and open the famous tombs at Monte Alban was bringing to the Chicago World Fair the Mexican Presidential train on which would be displayed some of the wonderful treasures recently found. The writer was invited to meet him in Chicago and upon arriving at the train was delightfully surprised to find also Dr. Blom. During the conversation the writer mentioned that he believe he had obtained representative specimens of all the media of the Indians. Dr. Case expressed skepticism of this and asked if I had visited the replica of the Maya temple on the Fair Grounds which I had not. He adjourned to the building and in one of the cases he pointed out a short deep green tail feather of the 'Dragon Resplendent' or quetzal and asked quietly " do you have one of these". I not only did not have one but did not know that they had actually been the highest valued money media.

Upon my return home I immediately corresponded by files for my contacts in Central America and Mexico writing each to ask if it were possible to obtain a quetzal or at least one of the feathers. All replies, except one, were that it was believe the bird was extinct, others that there were reports of the bird being seen far in the jungle but that the reports were uncertain and that the natives were very superstitious and would certainly never permit their capture or killing. However, my letter had reached a man in Guatemala City who wrote that he had heard rumors that an old family in the interior had a quetzal mounted in a glass case and he would make inquiry on his next visit. Some months later I had a letter stating that he had located the bird and, since I had done him some favors in the past, had gambled that I would be willing to pay a 'fair' price and had bought it for $30 and hoped I would be pleased (I have since refused several offers of $500 just for the four tail feathers).

[illegible] Bird, The Quetzal and Two Long Tail Feathers $0.00

Case
22- Tail Feathers separate

Value
$ 00

Case 23

201. [illegible]. Small steatite axe money[illegible] 5.00

202. " Red Agate axeds 1 a pair 8.00

203. [illegible]. String [illegible] jade axe money 50.00

204. " Obsidian or Volcanic Glass . This mineral was highly prized and was bought through trade with Indians from the North 5.00

205. " Round clay money with seated figure 1" 5.00

206. " Round stone axes with incuse design 2½" 21.00

207. " String small garnet beads 15.00

208. " Large engraved anklet 3.5½ laced in flaida to ward off evil winds. Unusual 7 here 50.00

209. " Large jade pebbles with center hole. Round and tubular 1 to 2". 7 sizes 70.00

210. " Smaller jade pieces drilled for stringing.(4) 40.00

211. " Jade claw used as pendant on money necklace 20.00

211A " Jade knee 1 x 1" from Hawaii 'sail 20.00

211B " Small stone axe money 1½ 2 sizes 30.00

211C " " 1½ 2 " 24.00

211[illegible] " Very small symmetrical jade 11.00

203[illegible] " Jade necklace and pendant fourteen [illegible] 150.00

Case 24

212. [illegible]. Long copper chisel shaped money. As thin as paper. These recently discovered pieces solved a long standing problem. Some authors had claimed that the 'T' or 'Thu' shaped coppers sometimes called 'chopper money' 'Axe money' 'Ketchits de cobre' etc. were implements. One going so far as to say they were used by the natives to shape clay vessels "on rapidly revolving wheels" which, in view of the fact that the use of the wheel was never discovered until the arrival of the Spaniards was rather strange. However, with the discovery of these thin flexible pieces all such arguments were dissolved.

Sizes small and 1½ down, large end 3" down, Length 4" to 10" 9 Varieties 35.00

213.	Ancient stone money(1) All southern areas that the smallest 'small money' of the early Indians was the stone worn. (10 old specimens found in a tiny clay pot.	
214.	Terra clay pot in which found at Monte Alban	15.00
215.	Stone money irregular shape marked / (-two)	15.00
216.	" " " / (-three)	15.00
217.	" " " -(three)	15.00
218.	" " " -(three)	15.00
219.	" " " -(four)	15.00
220.	" " " -(four)	15.00
	(found in Mexico..southern Mexican museum pieces)	
221.	Dolomites stone money very hard stone 2½x3/4"	25.00
222.	" " finely carved 2½ x 3	25.00
223.	" " " Jade 2 x 1	25.00
224.	Copper chisel shape money 4½ to 5" by 2" (5 var.)	20.00
224/	" " 5½	10.00
224B	Jade [illegible] grey 3x2x½ face with crossed lines	35.00
224C	[illegible] early native cloth used as money	10.00
224D	[illegible] for wearing with pendants. Shell shape	20.50
224E	" "	25.00
224F	" " 2½x3½	35.00
224G	" Obverse flower design Reverse Bells	100.00
224H	" Bowl shape design	75.00

(224) to 8 are from Monte Alban excavations

[illegible]

229. [illegible] very small 1/8x1/2/3/8" [illegible] 37.50
230. " " 3/32x1-1/2 " 20.00
231. " " 3/8x3-1/8x1 " 15.00
240. " " 5/8x3x1 " 13.00

235. [illegible] larger " mouth beaver 3/4x6/1g 15.00
236. " " 3/8x4x1 10.00
251. " " 7/8x8x1 30.00

234. " flat bread edge turned 1x3 x3-3/4 8.00

233. [illegible] box long, narrow, thick 1x1-3/4x1 15.00
234. " " 1x2x1 15.00

235. " triangular 1. x 2 15.00

[illegible]

236. [illegible] 7/8x1-1/2 white fillet 25.00
237. " " 1 x 1-1/8 [illegible]way 25.00
238. " " 1 x 2 Curvie Jasper 25.00
239. " " 1g1-3/4 Leaf Jasper 15.00

240. Dentil [illegible] 3-3/4 x 8 This is the rarest shape with long narrow ends of the cross bar of "I" 50.00

241. " regular "dentil" shape 4 x 4 unusual size 10.00
242. " " " 4 x 8 common type 7.50
243. " " " 5 x 10 Square across " 15.00
244. " " similar but bottom of "I" is straight 12.00
245. " " larger size 6g x 12 15.00
246. " " " 6 x 7 (Rare question) 20.00

247. " heavy thick shape 4 x 4 x 2 (see 225-231 15.00

Case 28

248.	[illegible] Pumay Pegmatite (wide) 2 x 2 x 1	25.00
249.	" " Hematite 2 x 1 x 1	20.00
250.	" " Dark stone 1 to 1½" (3 Var)	12.00
251.	" " Green [illegible] 3/4 x 3/4 x ¼" [illegible] Rare	35.00
252.	" " Grey " 7/16 x 3/4 "	20.00
253.	[illegible] round 1½ x 5/8 Decorated face & edge	25.00
254.	" " " " circles lines	15.00
	(These two pieces illustrated [illegible] June 53)	
255.	" Round 1½" decorated 1 Var.	15.00
256.	" " Thick 2" 2 Var.	25.00
257.	" " Small" cross in circle	9.00
258.	" " Plain, edges curved in 3 sizes	2.00
259.	[illegible] Round, pyramid shaped hard green stone (nephrite) holed center.	20.00
260.	[illegible] small copper bells 1½" decorated (2) Probably Maya but I was at Monte Alban	30.00
261.	" Similar but t wo are [illegible]	20.00
262.	" " but larger & different shape	15.00
263.	" very tiny bells 3/8" Rare (2)	20.00
264.	" " " 3/4" " (1)	15.00
264A	[illegible] Tontonac shape human face 2"	10.00
264B	" Toltec " 1½"	12.00
264C	" Pyramid face design 1½x2½ Rare	25.00
264D	" Aztec 1x1½	1.00
264E	[illegible]	1.00
264F	" "	5.00

Special Display					
Card	25%.	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-1/4"	25.00
in steel	25%.	"	"	2 "	25.00
case	25%.	"	"	3"	35.00

Case			
29			
	264.	Necklace 20 inch stone beads grey & brown	20.00
	265.	" " 23 " brown, grey & green	15.00
	266.	-[illegible] 22 grey & green white beads from small to 1" bare	50.00
	267.	" Long string (60) dark brown hard stone and jadeite beads. See cat #0 list 1934	250.00
	268.	[illegible] round jade flat disc money all are holed for wearing as pendant seven sizes 1/4" to 3" bare collection	125.00
	269.	" Similar cutpendant shaped ½ to 1" [illegible]	100.00
	270.	" Green stone money 1 x 1½ design	15.00
	271.		

Case			
30	272.	[illegible] round stone disc money 1 to 2" holed & bar	40.00
	273.	" Oblong " " " "	10.00
	274.	" [illegible] bead money string 16 pieces	15.00
	275.	" " " and oblong pendants	17.50
	276.	" " " pendant shape 3 kinds	24.00
	277.	" " long thick tubular 1 x 3"	10.00
	278.	" [illegible] round disc 1"	5.00
	278A	" and small tubular money . Large	6.00

279.	[illegible]	[illegible]	White [illegible]	1*	30.00
280.	"	"	" "	2	40.00
281.	"	"	Brown "	1	45.00
282.	"	"	" "	1-7/8	30.00
283.	"	"	Red "	1-3/4	20.00
284.	"	"	" "	2-3/8	35.00
285.	[illegible]	"	White "	1-3/4	45.00
286.	"	"	Red-Brown	1-3/4	25.00
287.	"	"	Deep red	1	45.00
288.	"	"	Pink "	2	35.00
289.	"	"	Pink-red	1	30.00
290.	[illegible]	"	Brown "	2	50.00
291.	"	"	Grey "	2	35.00
292.	[illegible]	"	Pink-brown	1-3/4	35.00
293.	[illegible]	"	Red "	2	15.00
294.	"	"	red-brown	1	10.00
295.	"	"	Black [illegible]	1	20.00
296.	[illegible]	"	"	1-3/4	20.00
297.	[illegible]	"	"	2	10.00
298.	[illegible]	"	"	1...1...2" (2)	30.00
299.	"		Brown [illegible]	1...2" (2)	20.00
300.	[illegible]		Green & Yellow Jasper		25.00

[illegible]

[illegible]	299.	[illegible]	Grey & Red 4"	2 discs	30.00
	8	[illegible]	4 and 5"	2 "	30.00
	1	[illegible]	4		20.00
	2	[illegible]	2 and 4	2 "	30.00
	1	[illegible]	1"		10.00

[illegible]

299-[illegible]. [illegible] money digger Indiana 1" horse well 10.00

[illegible]. [illegible]. Round Hacienda token 1877 [illegible] 5.00

H. [illegible]. Private Hacienda Copper token (1800) shape of a boot 'L.H./V.A. 25.00

I. [illegible]-1850. Most unusual brass in shape of an old style flatiron 1 x 2½ stamped 'Z.Lee./1411/[illegible]/ C.H. 15.00

J. [illegible] Hacienda "1/8- Aal-is hael de vega" 1½ x 2½. See picture 'Numismatist' May 1935. Schenkle collection. Only three or four specimens have survived. 50.00

K. " larger specimen. Seems to be brass soap but inscription cannot be read. This was taken [illegible] private specimen (see account March 1935) 35.00

L. [illegible]. Hacienda tokens of thick leather Period 1850-60

(a) 2-1/8x2-1/8 crown V.H. star,wheel 60.00
(b) 2 x 2½ [illegible] twice A in square 60.00
(c) 1½x1-3/4 U S over H.V. star wheel 60.00
60)27-32 (d) 1-3/8x1-3/8 similar 30.00
(e) 1 x 1-3/4 different inscription 30.00
(f) Period 1850-60 [illegible] brand 3 times 30.00
(g) 1½x2½ brand V.H. 32.50
(h) 7/8" round I.. reverse three bars 20.00
(i) 1x2" [illegible] in circle.. brand [illegible] 45.00

This was private collection of Texas tokens of the Chase National Bank and was publicized in the New York Times many years ago.)